Banda Sea Experience!

3rd – 20th October 2016

Leader: James Eaton

Participants: Elena Babij, Romney Bathurst, Mel & Heather Billington, Terry Doyle, Alan Lewis, Barry Read, Mike Smith, Rob Tizard and Barbara York

The 4,000km long Indonesian Archipelago, stretching east to west across three time zones, hosts over 600 endemic birds. With more than 18,000 islands, it is almost impossible to see all of those endemics, and a considerable number are amongst the most difficult species to see on earth because they inhabit remote islands where there are no airports and where boat travel is both slow, uncomfortable and unpredictable. Nowhere is this truer than amongst the mainly volcanic islands that form the eastern arc of the Lesser Sunda islands. Indeed, whilst the larger, species-rich Lesser Sunda islands of Flores, Sumba and Timor are easy to get to and are visited by birders annually, the remote islands of Wetar, Alor, Pantar and a series of even smaller islands in the Banda and Flores Seas including Tanahjampea, Kalaotoa, Damar and Babar have been visited by almost no birders, and their fauna and flora is only known through a limited amount of collecting that took place more than 100 years ago and a handful of recent trips by intrepid explorers and our tours. Visiting these islands by means of public transport would be a seriously difficult undertaking, requiring several months of rough and logistically difficult travel. In 2011 however, Birdtour Asia organized the inaugural tour to the most ornithologically interesting of these islands, and this year’s Banda Sea Cruise was the fourth such tour. The Banda Sea Cruise provides a unique opportunity to look for the endemic birds of this region whilst living aboard our extremely comfortable private ship designed specifically for touring the remotest islands of Indonesia and catering exclusively for special-interest groups such as ours and, for example, divers seeking undisturbed coral reefs. Using the ships zodiacs, we were able to reach even remote unspoilt beaches where few foreigners have ever set foot.
Given that many distinctive taxa in Wallacea are undoubtedly going to be split into newly recognized species in the near future, this tour has been designed to not only include all the known endemics but also to seek out likely ‘armchair ticks’ in coming years. Hence the itinerary evolved to include Tanahjampea, Kalaotoa, Pantar, Alor, Wetar, Leti, Damar and Babar, and finishes on the rather more developed and better-known island of Yamdena, in the Tanimbar Islands, at the far eastern end of the Lesser Sunda chain.

Our intrepid group of travellers converged from across the globe on the popular holiday island of Bali before taking a punctual flight across to the sleepy port town of Labuanbajo in western Flores was a good omen, although the rather hard landing (to put it mildly!) was a reminder to keep our feet firmly on the ground with Indonesian airlines!

We were soon aboard our fully equipped chartered ship which was to be our home for the next 14 nights as we traversed the eastern part of the archipelago. After a full introduction to the ship and our ever smiling and helpful crew, all the sun-loungers were occupied as we left scenic Labuanbajo en route to our first destination of Tanahjampea. As we entered the open seas our first pelagic species began to appear, close inshore six Aleutian Terns provided a great start, then a couple of ‘sea creatures’ we embarrassingly struggled to identify, though two Manta Rays leaping clear of the surface were a little easier to work out! Good numbers of Bulwer’s Petrels, a single presumed Swinhoe’s Storm-petrel, Wilson’s Storm-petrels, our first Red-footed and Brown Boobies, and small flocks of Red-necked Phalarope got us underway.

After a full night of sailing in remarkably calm waters we arrived at the southern end of Tanahjampea at the cusp of dawn. This island, not far south of Sulawesi, was only one of two islands visited on the tour that is not part of the Lesser Sundas, but being so interesting ornithologically and not too far off our route, it was included to give us an opportunity to see some very poorly-known species. Indeed, apart from our previous Banda Sea Cruise participants, only one other birder has visited this island during the last 80 years. After an early breakfast – Edam, freshly-made unsweetened bread, a variety of jams and peanut butter, cornflakes, choice of eggs and freshly-squeezed juice – this would be the norm on-board – quite a change to the usual Indonesian birding breakfast, we were soon on our way to the forest edge, some 3km away along a wide, flat trail.

More open areas near the village already provided interest with Supertramp Fantail (a split from Arafura), Lemon-bellied White-eye, White-shouldered Triller, Island and Broad-billed Monarchs and the vocally-distinct black-bellied teysmanni subspecies of Sahul Sunbird (part of the Olive-backed breakup). Even before we had left the coastal mangrove belt we found our main target, the striking Tanahjampea Monarch, a pair of which were busy feeding and calling. Unlike the monarchs our other main targets, however, are more associated with forest. As we continued towards the forest edge we picked up several other birds of interest, including the endemic subspecies of Sulawesi Myzomela, Red-chested Flowerpecker, several more Tanahjampea Monarch and just as we hit a bamboo-strewn dry streambed, a pair of Tanahjampea Jungle-flycatchers. The flycatcher is endemic to this and the surrounding islands, and is unique amongst the Cyornis in that the female shows more extensive orange underparts than the male. It was not until we reached the forest edge that we found our third, and final major target, Flores Sea Cuckoo Dove, a recent split from Bar-necked complex (we would encounter the other two species of the split later in the tour, offering a great comparison).

Pleased as punch we jollied around for a while at the forest edge to see what else we would come across; more monarchs and flycatchers, along with Sahul Sunbird, our first Elegant Imperial Pigeon and only Pacific Baza of the tour. Having cleaned up so soon we opted to head off earlier than usual so we could spend a morning visiting a new island – Kalaotoa, the easternmost island in Flores Sea chain of islands.

**Tanahjampea Monarch and Tanahjampea Jungle-flycatcher, Tanahjampea**

More open areas near the village already provided interest with Supertramp Fantail (a split from Arafura), Lemon-bellied White-eye, White-shouldered Triller, Island and Broad-billed Monarchs and the vocally-distinct black-bellied teysmanni subspecies of Sahul Sunbird (part of the Olive-backed breakup). Even before we had left the coastal mangrove belt we found our main target, the striking Tanahjampea Monarch, a pair of which were busy feeding and calling. Unlike the monarchs our other main targets, however, are more associated with forest. As we continued towards the forest edge we picked up several other birds of interest, including the endemic subspecies of Sulawesi Myzomela, Red-chested Flowerpecker, several more Tanahjampea Monarch and just as we hit a bamboo-strewn dry streambed, a pair of Tanahjampea Jungle-flycatchers. The flycatcher is endemic to this and the surrounding islands, and is unique amongst the Cyornis in that the female shows more extensive orange underparts than the male. It was not until we reached the forest edge that we found our third, and final major target, Flores Sea Cuckoo Dove, a recent split from Bar-necked complex (we would encounter the other two species of the split later in the tour, offering a great comparison).

Pleased as punch we jollied around for a while at the forest edge to see what else we would come across; more monarchs and flycatchers, along with Sahul Sunbird, our first Elegant Imperial Pigeon and only Pacific Baza of the tour. Having cleaned up so soon we opted to head off earlier than usual so we could spend a morning visiting a new island – Kalaotoa, the easternmost island in Flores Sea chain of islands.
Kalaotoa has not been visited by a birder, to our knowledge, since 1993, and previous to that, only by the original bird collectors. The island is home to four endemic taxa, a race of Tanahjampea Jungle-flycatcher (which we didn’t find), Sunset Lorikeet (likely long extinct), the plentiful Supertramp Fantail race and an out-of-the-way race of Banda Sea Gerygone, that might well be more distinct than currently realised. The villagers could not quite believe the sight of all these foreigners coming ashore just to look at some birds but were ever so welcoming and friendly (like on all these islands). Flores Sea Cuckoo Dove were plentiful and much more conspicuous than Tanahjampea and we also had great views at virginalis Elegant Pitta, that is seemingly absent on Tanahjampea during this period, suggesting inter-island migration. Golden Whistler, the first of several races during the tour was plentiful – the race here, everetti best considered part of the Tenggara Whistler grouping. We also found a Common Spotted Cuscus during our wander in the forest (introduced to the island), and excellent views of an Orange-footed Scrubfowl that wasn’t sure whether to stick-or-twist, before it was time for the long crossing south-east, which would take 24 hours. This section of open sea is always the most exciting of the trip, this was no exception with large pods of Blackfish, primarily False Killer Whales but a second species was also present before hitting the open sea where large numbers of Red-footed Booby appeared, Bulwer’s Petrels continued to be common, a single White-tailed Tropicbird was sat on the water, a mother and calf Sperm Whale loafing on the water, and plenty of Spinner and Bottle-nosed Dolphins joining in on the fun. The highlight however was finding a Tropical Shearwater – the second record for Indonesia (the first was in 1945!), before celebrating by having a snorkel where the seabed rose up to just before the surface at sunset – this is the life!

Flores Sea Cuckoo Dove, and Elegant Pitta, Kalaotoa © Alan Lewis

Still offshore at dawn, we had plenty more Wilson’s Storm-petrels and Bulwer’s Petrels before throwing anchor off the north coast of Pantar in the heat of the day. After waiting for permission to go ashore – a long drawn out procedure to show respect to the village head in order to obtain a welcome passing on to their land and island, we spent a full afternoon wandering through what is now heavily degraded Eucalyptus forest. Plenty of Lesser Sunda endemics appeared, so for those not having visited Flores before, it was a tick-fest, Black-fronted Flowerpecker, Flame-breasted Sunbird, Indonesian Honeyeater, Supertramp Fantail, Rufous-backed Kingfisher (for some), though otherwise it was hot and quiet. We headed for the main event before dusk as the clouds were looking rather ominous and the rain came down eventually – fortunately it was short-lived and before too long a pair of ‘Alor Boobook’ were rumbling away in the spotlight above us, before venturing lower to give us superb, prolonged views as they sat side-by-side. Southern Boobook currently contains no less than 11 subspecies and is regarded to be a hugely over-lumped complex which undoubtedly includes several taxa that should be recognized as full species. The group is currently undergoing a review which will eventually see the ‘Alor Boobook’ elevated to full species status. Apart from members of the previous Banda Sea Cruises, this taxon has only been seen by a handful of pioneering birders!

From Pantar it was a relatively short journey to the neighbouring island of Alor where we anchored in the very early hours. Unusually for Indonesia, the pre-dawn waiting for vehicles and lack of fuel fiasco was more-or-less avoided and we were soon on our way into the hills. A paved road meant that, after just a couple of stops for over-heated engines we were right where we wanted to be not long after sunrise, in the montane eucalyptus forest. Olive-headed Lorikeets were numerous throughout the day. Our first target, an undescribed myzomela was found quite quickly, first of all some of us had a cracking adult male with a flock of Ashy-bellied White-eyes, followed by prolonged views of two different presumed immature males (and a further male later on). The wind was blowing a gale up top, making passerine birding tough going, though this brought a pair of displaying Flores Hawk Eagles on to the wing – Alor must be a stronghold for this Critically Endangered species as we encountered two perched singles later on in the day at different locations.
Our next target, Sunda Grasshopper Warbler (or Timor Bush Warbler, depending on your English name and taxonomic preferences!) took quite some searching, with just distant birds calling for much of the morning until we finally enticed a couple of birds into range and after a long, hard game of cat-and-mouse we finally managed multiple views as it sat by, and on the trail.

After our field lunch, siesta was short-lived as an attempt to sleep on the road (it is quite quiet here!) was interrupted by the calls of a distant Alor Cuckooshrike, a recent split from Wallacean. It took just a matter of seconds before the pair were perched by the roadside, with much relief having not found them on Pantar or earlier in the day. Flores Spangled Drongo and the flying tissue – a beautiful male Tenggara Paradise-flycatcher also appeared, before we finally latched onto ‘Eucalypt Cuckoo Dove’, an undescribed Macropygia restricted to here, Sumba, Wetar and Timor that is currently subsumed under Little Cuckoo Dove. Peering down the valley we found a couple of distant white specks – Yellow-crested Cockatoo. Over the next couple of hours we would get into double figures of these, in the same area we found them in 2014, and possibly the biggest flock in Indonesia away from Komodo, such is the dire plight of the species. A gentle stroll down the road during the late afternoon produced much of the same, frustratingly a pair of Flores Green Pigeons that flew past was only seen by those that had previously seen the bird on Flores!

Our next island was further east, Wetar. On the open sea, Bulwer’s Petrel was a common feature, with upwards of 500 being logged and big numbers of Red-footed Booby, Brown Noddy, Spinner Dolphins racing towards us, leaping out and spinning in front of us, and a few other, as yet unidentified, distant cetaceans. The weather and sea was quite volatile during this particularly crossing, unusual for this time of year but slowed us down, meaning we anchored off Wetar late in the night.

Timor Imperial Pigeon and Black Cuckoo Dove, Wetar

With all arrangements in place the previous evening (well, the early hours, with the locals not keen on opening their doors thinking we were ghosts from the mountains), we set out well before dawn and as the light broke we entered our intended river valley surrounded by a dawn chorus (the first of the trip!). We were well prepared for the walk much of which was wading along the shallow river as it navigated a forest-lined gorge, and far from being a problem this added to the sense of solitude and adventure in this spectacular setting. Early morning activity was instant and incredibly rewarding and exciting; as we entered the valley Black-necklaced Honeyeater appeared, then Timor Spangled Drongo, Tricoloured Parrotfinches, Pacific Emerald Doves, and the first of well over 100 Pink-headed Imperial Pigeons during the day. Wetar Figbirds, Wallacean Cuckooshrikes, Black-backed Fruit Doves – it was all happening as the first rays of sunlight hit a bustling fruiting tree. Next was Timor Cuckoo Dove and Black Cuckoo Dove, vying for our attentions – such difficult birds to find in west Timor, these would be seen on numerous occasions and with ease over the course of the day. A brief Wetar Myzomela tantalised us – his turn would have to wait. Further on, we came to an enticing looking lush gulley, and soon enough the highlight of the trip, a male Wetar Ground Dove suddenly appeared right in front of us, on a completely open branch where he sat, nervously, walking back-and-forth before doing the same on umpteen other branches over the next hour! Smiles all round, with possibly the tours most desired bird firmly under the belt we could relax and enjoy the reminder of the day. Birds were coming thick and fast, with Wetar Oriole next to appear, plumage and vocalisations so different from its Timor counterpart, then a Timor Leaf Warbler buzzed around us before eventually calming down. A pair of Jonquil Parrots flew high overhead, landing in a Eucalyptus on the ridge overhead (the gorge must be at least 80m deep!), then a surprise pair of Iris Lorikeet shot past, fortuitously landing in a fruiting tree right in front of us. It’s the first time we have found this species perched on this tour, so it was interesting comparing the endemic subspecies to Timor birds and illustrations in the literature which don’t quite do justice to the distinctiveness of this bird.
As we walked further up the gorge, usually below the knee (or above the knee depending on your height!) in the crystal-clear stream we continued to see various species of pigeon and an excellent immature Bonelli’s Eagle. After lunch and siesta we went in search of Timor Imperial Pigeon, and eventually heard its distinctive tremolo advertising call though we obviously flushed it before we could find it – frustrating. However, as we slowly made our way back we found a small party of them feeding above us, giving us a clean-up of the days targets.

We finally returned to the ship at sunset after one of the most spectacular days birding you are likely to find in Indonesia. Our days total of pigeons ended up with nine species with totals of 110+ Pink-headed Imperial Pigeon, 25 Black Cuckoo Dove, 20 Black-backed Fruit Dove, 15 Timor Cuckoo Dove, 15 Pacific Emerald Dove, 10 Barred Dove, 3 Wetar Ground Dove, 3 Timor Imperial Pigeon, 1 Metallic Pigeon – quite a haul!

Timor Nightjar, Wetar and Wetar Scops Owl, Wetar

We had a couple of things still to see the next day, so we headed a little further down the coast to an old mining road. A bit of excitement on the zodiac heading to shore as James felt something creeping up his leg, which the spotlight revealed to be a Banded Krait, only one of the most venomous snakes known (though, as several participants were rather nonchalantly pointing out, they are rather tepid creatures!), after a shout to get to the front of the zodiac, Terry just dived overboard, while a bit of scrum to the front was all rather bewildering to those at the front, as they had no idea what was behind them! Well and truly woken up at this point, we found our main target of the day, Wetar Scops Owl, in the spotlight before dawn, as well as a distant one on wires by a light, chasing insects. Over the course of the morning and returning in the late afternoon we had seen almost all of the previous days species once again, with particularly nice scope views of a calling Timor Imperial Pigeon, much to Barry’s delight and three additional male Wetar Ground Doves, including one particularly confiding bird that hung around for as long as we wanted. Fortunately, Wetar Myzomela was a common bird today, with several sightings of birds enjoying the numerous flowering trees. Orange-banded Thrush was also appreciated, with several birds feeding along the track, while a large family of Bonelli’s Eagle, with three fledged youngsters kept on reappearing over the course of the day, allowing for closer scrutiny as to what differences the disjunct *renschii* race shows from Eurasian birds. A bird surprisingly absent yesterday, Cinnamon-banded Kingfisher appeared in the afternoon, before we settled down for dusk to appear. As it did the distinctive calls of ‘Timor Nightjar’, an uncommon and local undescribed species restricted to just Wetar and Timor, started up. Some bashing through the undergrowth eventually got us to the spot with the nightjar more than happy to sit in the beam, *chonking* away for as long as we wanted. The walk back down to the coast gave us several more Wetar Scops Owl – the final action after two fabulous birding days.

The small island of Leti, close enough to be viewable from East Timor, holds an interesting avifauna, partially shared with other small Banda Sea islands. Before our afternoons birding we went for some snorkelling enjoying the splendid coral reef that is just offshore from town. Managing to avoid much of the midday heat, by the time we were birding it was already bearable. Even before we left town we picked up Banda Sea Fantail, a split from Northern, then our first of several Kisar Friarbird – the two endemics of the south-western Banda Sea islands, and while the friarbird might not be the best looking bird of the trip it is surely one of the most range-restricted and rarely-seen! Vocally it is more similar to Helmeted but plumage and size more like Little from Australia. We also saw ‘Banda Bronze Cuckoo’ perched at eye-level, along with more fantails, including another race of Supertramp and the *compar* ‘Golden Whistler’ – currently regarded as a race of Golden on checklists, though the males are hen-type in appearance, genetics (and vocalisations) have shown then to actually be more closely related to Fawn-breasted Whistler from Wetar and Timor. The Supertramp Fantail here changed to *elegantula*, very different in appearance from other races with its bright rufous upperparts and pale forecrown.
We also encountered our first of many 'silver-crowned' Rose-crowned Fruit Doves, just a shame they sound the same as everywhere else! As dusk descended on us several Savanna Nightjar began to call, before we finally heard, and pinned down the Banda Sea endemic race of Southern Boobook, which unfortunately sounds and looks like they do down under!

All plain sailing so far, so it was quite a shock when, during breakfast a sudden thud had us stuck on the edge of a reef that was just below the surface. At the time little did we know what that would mean for the remainder of the cruise, as it soon dawned on us that not only would we have to leave the ship, on to an uninhabited island, true Castaway-style but that would be the last time we would see our beautiful ship.

Marooned on an uninhabited island, we had thankfully been in touch with emergency services on the satellite phone, and just when it looked like we’d have to spend the night on the island, a huge ferry (that passes once a fortnight!) came to our rescue, and ferried us across to Damar – we were still on track, though sleeping on the tiled-floor of the tiny Police Station was not quite what we had in mind!

Damar was one of the most eagerly anticipated stops on the tour after the sensational rediscovery here of the Damar Flycatcher in 2001 by the first birder, Colin Trainor, to visit the island in more than a century! Other than him, only our intrepid groups have laid eyes on this diminutive beauty.

Within a short walk of the town the next morning we were already finding birds – Banda Sea Gerygone, *dammariana* Cinnamon-banded Kingfisher, Wallacean Whistlers and Banda Honeyeaters. Quite a way up the trail, once we finally penetrated the darker forest, a furtive movement lowdown revealed the dark sharp of a tiny *Ficedula*, once in the binoculars the shape turned into a beautiful midnight-blue sheen with the belly littered in tiny white arrows, and a tiny white throat patch was revealed each time the Damar Flyatcher burst into song. Over the next couple of hours we were treated to multiple, and continuous views of a couple of birds – that we had managed in seeing one of the most inaccessible birds on earth, after yesterdays worrying prognosis made for quite an occasion.

We weren’t going anywhere for the rest of the day, so a gentle stroll in the afternoon produced much of the same, with the inclusion of Red-chested Flowerpecker, but pigeons were noted by their general absence.

Babar isn’t renowned for it’s plethora of endemics but it’s important to visit. A predawn vigil down the paved road (which was just a footpath in 2014) lacked any sign of boobooks, but did have a pair of Barn Owl. Babar in the early morning offers great birding – Cinnamon-tailed Fantail (vocally distinct from Tanimbar, and thus probably an undescribed species), an endemic race of Supertramp Fantail, Banda Myzomela, Little Bronze Cuckoo, Orange-banded Thrushes, Cinnamon-banded Kingfishers, Wallacean Whistlers and the super abundant Tricoloured Parrotfinch were all showing exceptionally well. One taxon we’ve failed to find on our previous trips is the endemic form of Golden Whistler here – frustrating as it’s probably best considered the islands one true endemic species, Babar Whistler. Deciding we needed to find more evergreen forest than we usually visit we tried a particular spot of potential, and sure enough, after a half hour wait we eventually went on to have excellent views of several individuals, including the highly distinctive, brightly coloured females and obtained several sound recordings which were unknown till that point.

In the afternoon we encountered much of the same, with repeated, excellent views of much of the mornings birds, with the addition of four Oriental Plover, several Tree Swallow and our first Wallace’s Fruit Dove. At dusk we waited for the distinct calls of the endemic taxon, *cinnamomina*, of the Southern Boobook, though after plenty of waiting there was scant response initially, possibly not helped by the locals gathering nearby for
a small, alcohol-fuelled sing and dance. Funnily enough, within 10 minutes of them leaving, we had the *Ninox* nailed in the spotlight, right above where they had been. After a couple of minutes its mate flew in, with a gerygone in its mouth, and after much lovin’ in the beam, they flew across to sit side-by-side in a bare tree, directly above us.

Having organised a speedboat from Tanimbar to pick us up in the late morning (now we had some sort of phone signal), we took a stroll out from town, after some shorebirding, obtaining excellent, close views of several Wallace’s Fruit Dove, Five-coloured Munia, Cinnamon-banded Kingfisher and all the other expected species. Knowing how these things can pan out, we were delighted, and slightly surprised to see our speedboat boat at lunchtime, and excitedly packed our bags, loaded the boat, only for the harbour master to point to the skies and the incoming high winds and bad weather – we wouldn’t be going anywhere today! A 3am start the next morning was met with much relief and delight as we eventually arrived onto Tanimbar in the mid-morning, with true civilisation and proper shower.

We had lost half a day on Tanimbar due to our plight, and we needed to get offshore to search for Tanimbar Scrubfowl so we knew we had our work cut-out to polish up on all the endemics so we headed out in the early afternoon – a bit pointless as it was blisteringly hot along the roadside. A tick-fest of an afternoon ensued – the imaginatively named Tanimbar Oriole, Tanimbar Friarbird, Tanimbar Flyrobin, Tanimbar Triller, Tanimbar Cuckoo Dove, Tanimbar Starling all quickly showed. Blue-streaked Lories typically flew high over in pairs, while Tawny Grassbirds skulked in the ever increasing amount of grassland. Unfortunately, a lot of tree-cutting and burning has taken place recently along our favoured birding area, so it made for a depressing scene. As usual though, the birds clung on – Torresian Crow, such a hard bird on Tanimbar showed excellently as it circled us, Elegant Imperial Pigeons were almost as abundant as Wallace’s and Rose-crowned Fruit Doves. Red-cheeked Parrots were also abundant, though only a small number of other parrots were encountered, including our first Tanimbar Cockatoos, and once the air had cooled, lovely views of perched Blue-streaked Lories, along with Wallacean Cuckoo-shrike and a single Great-billed Parrot. Our main reason for being here was for the night-birding. As soon as it got dark we had repeated views of a pair of ginger-toned Tanimbar Boobooks, then after some walking, and two minutes before our cut-off time a Moluccan Masked Owl fluttered right above James’s head, before swooping down to perch on the closest open branch available. What was one of the most-sought after Moluccan endemics is possibly not so anymore, as it is probably best considered part of the Australasian Masked Owl species but still very exciting, nonetheless.

Our first morning on Tanimbar saw us head straight to the forest edge. In the early morning sunshine, the birds were dripping off the trees and bushes. Pied Bronze Cuckoo appeared, then a Salvadori’s Flowerpecker (split from Mistletoebird and endemic to here and Kai islands), Banda Sea (Black-bibbed) Monarch, the islands second trickiest endemic – Tanimbar Spangled Drongo was sat in a bare-tree, unusually for this forest dweller, but most exciting was the Fawn-breasted Thrush that flew up to sit on an open branch allowing us plenty of time to enjoy this ever-so-elusive endemic *Zoothera.* A flyby Royal Spoonbill was a peculiar sighting and as the temperatures rose we opted to retreat into the forest. First up was another pair of Banda Sea Monarch, then the super-cute Charming Fantail, waving his tail side-to-side. The most striking endemic, Slaty-backed Thrush, proceeded to sing from several prominent perches in front of us offering a real show. Further inside the forest, one particular spot was all we needed to clean-up – the wonderfully-marked Tanimbar Monarch was the first to appear (previously called Loetoe, which was erroneously used as an English word for an offshore island, Lutur), then the rather drab Tanimbar Bush Warbler and finally a pair of furtive Tanimbar Flycatchers in addition to more monarchs and Slaty-backed Thrush.

Returning to the same forest patch in the afternoon we stopped en-route to enjoy a group of 26 Little Curlew on a football pitch before reaching the forest, which was a soul-destroying affair as we headed further into the forest expecting taller, thicker forest, only to get closer to the sound of chainsaws and large areas of recently

---

*Figures 1 & 2: Babar Whistler, Babar © Alan Lewis, and Tanimbar Scrubfowl, Tanimbar Islands*
cleared areas, still smouldering. Tanimbar Cockatoos were plentiful here, and a couple of Eclectus Parrot were a welcome addition though otherwise it was rather quiet until the walk back when we found another Fawn-breasted Thrush feeding in the middle of the track.

With one final endemic left hanging we took a boat out to a small island of scrub in search of Tanimbar Scrubfowl, such a difficult bird on the mainland now. Things looked good with several mounds found, though first we enjoyed close views of a pair of Beach Thick-knee. Struggling for an hour in the scrub we randomly bumped into a bird feeding underneath a lone bush, with nowhere to go it decided to leap up into the tree, sitting nervously on an open branch! Eventually it flew off, leaving us with a Tanimbar clean-sweep. Checking a couple more islets it was low-tide so a few shorebirds in addition to some Australian Pelicans. A small breeding colony of Bridled and Black-naped Tern also held large numbers of Brown Booby and very close views of Greater and Lesser Frigatebirds.

Back on land for the afternoon we found more Little Curlews on the way to the forest. Birding on the road was once again full of a variety of pigeons, flowerpeckers and another Tanimbar Spangled Drongo though nothing else new.

Our final day was a travel day, though a couple of us had an hour or so birding before the flight enjoying repeated views of Fawn-breasted Thrush, displaying Tawny Grassbird, Tanimbar Flycatcher, Shining Monarch, perched Azure Kingfisher and even an Elegant Pitta, here of the race vigorsii, vocally distinct from the birds on Kalaotoa. Our flight was rather uneventful except for finding our only Australian Pratincole among a group of Little Curlew from the plane just before take-off to Ambon, then onwards to Jakarta for a final dinner and toast – and ticks with Sunda Collared Dove and Javan Myna at the airport - to actually making it back to Jakarta with a clean-sweep of the specialities. As one temporary Canadian resident said to us on Babar – “You were looking for an adventure? Well, I guess you got it, ay!”.

_Slaty-backed Thrush and Fawn-breasted Thrush, Tanimbar_

**Bird-of-the-tour**

1: Wetar Ground Dove
2: Damar Flycatcher
3: Slaty-backed Thrush
4: Elegant Pitta
5: Wallace’s Fruit Dove

Following the outstanding success of our Banda Sea Cruise, we hope to be able to keep running the tour, please click [here](#) for further information. Alternatively please contact us via [e-mail](#) if you would like to organise a custom tour to these superb areas.
Banda Sea Gerygone, Kalaotoa and Supertramp Fantail, Kalaotoa

Tropical Shearwater, Flores Sea and Brown Booby, near Tanimbar

Little Bronze Cuckoo, Leti and compar Fawn-breasted Whistler, Leti
Wetar Figbird, Wetar and Iris Lorikeet, Wetar

Drab Swiftlet, Wetar and Wallace’s Fruit Dove, Babar

Southern Boobook, Leti and Kisar Friarbird, Leti
Black-naped Oriole, Kalaotoa and Supertramp Fantail, Leti

Damar Flycatcher and Supertramp Fantail, Damar

Cinnamon-banded Kingfisher and Orange-banded Thrush, Babar
Southern Boobook, Babar and Babar Whistler, Babar

Banda Myzomela, Babar and Little Bronze Cuckoo, Babar

Little Curlew, Tanimbar, and Oriental Plover, Babar © Alan Lewis
Salvadori’s Flowerpecker, Tanimbar and Wallace’s Fruit Dove, Babar

Tanimbar Oriole, and Tanimbar Bush Warbler © Alan Lewis

Tanimbar Monarch and Tanimbar Cockatoo, Tanimbar
Tanimbar Flycatcher and Charming Fantail, Tanimbar

Tanimbar Boobook and Australasian Masked Owl, Tanimbar

Systematic List

**ANSERIFORMES: Anatidae**
- Spotted Whistling Duck
  - Dendrocygna guttata
- Sunda Teal
  - Anas gibberifrons

**GALLIFORMES: Megapodiidae**
- Tanimbar Scrubfowl
  - Megapodius tenimberensis
- Orange-footed Scrubfowl
  - Megapodius reinwardt reinwardt

**GALLIFORMES: Phasianidae**
- Brown Quail
  - Coturnix ypsilophora raaltenii
- Red Junglefowl
  - Gallus gallus (introduced)

**COLUMBIFORMES: Columbidae**
- Metallic Pigeon
  - Columba vitiensis metallica
- Sunda Collared Dove
  - Streptopelia bitorquata
- Spotted Dove
  - Streptopelia chinensis tigrina
- Timor Cuckoo Dove
  - Macropygia magna
- Tanimbar Cuckoo Dove
  - Macropygia [magna] timorlaoensis
- Flores Sea Cuckoo Dove
  - Macropygia macassariensis longa
- 'Eucalypt Cuckoo Dove'
  - Macropygia sp nov.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Black Cuckoo Dove</td>
<td><em>Turacoena modesta</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian Emerald Dove</td>
<td><em>Chalcophaps indica indica</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pacific Emerald Dove</td>
<td><em>Chalcophaps longirostris timorensis</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barred Dove</td>
<td><em>Geopelia maugei</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wietar Ground Dove</td>
<td><em>Teron hoedti</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grey-cheeked Green Pigeon</td>
<td><em>Teron griseicauda</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flores Green Pigeon</td>
<td><em>Teron floris</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black-backed Fruit Dove</td>
<td><em>Ptilinopus cinctus cinctus</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wallace's Fruit Dove</td>
<td><em>Ptilinopus wallacii</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rose-crowned Fruit Dove</td>
<td><em>Ptilinopus regina xanthogaster</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black-naped Fruit Dove</td>
<td><em>Ptilinopus regina roseipileum</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green Imperial Pigeon</td>
<td><em>Ducula aenea polia</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elegant Imperial Pigeon</td>
<td><em>Ducula concinna</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pink-headed Imperial Pigeon</td>
<td><em>Ducula rosea</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Timor Imperial Pigeon</td>
<td><em>Ducula cineracea</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pied Imperial Pigeon</td>
<td><em>Ducula bicolor</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**CUCULIFORMES: Cuculidae**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oriental Cuckoo</td>
<td><em>Cuculus optatus</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australian Brush Cuckoo</td>
<td><em>Cacomantis variolosus whitei</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Little Bronze Cuckoo</td>
<td><em>Chrysococcyx minutillus jungei</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pied Bronze Cuckoo</td>
<td><em>Chrysococcyx minutillus rufomerus</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pacific Koel</td>
<td><em>Eudynamys cyanocephalus picatus</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian Koel</td>
<td><em>Eudynamys scolopaceus malayanus</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Channel-billed Cuckoo</td>
<td><em>Scythrops novaehollandiae</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lesser Coucal</td>
<td><em>Centropus bengalensis javanicus</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**APODIFORMES: Apodidae**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Glossy Swiftlet</td>
<td><em>Collocalia esculenta esculenta</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drab Swiftlet</td>
<td><em>Collocalia neglecta perneglecta</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cave Swiftlet</td>
<td><em>Collocalia linchi linchi</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uniform Swiftlet</td>
<td><em>Aerodramus vanikorensis moluccarum</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edible-nest Swiftlet</td>
<td><em>Aerodramus fuciphagus fuciphagus</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pacific Swift</td>
<td><em>Apus pacificus</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**CAPRIMULGIFORMES: Caprimulgidae**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Large-tailed Nightjar</td>
<td><em>Caprimulgus macrurus schlegelli</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'Timor Nightjar'</td>
<td><em>Caprimulgus [macrurus] sp nov.</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Savanna Nightjar</td>
<td><em>Caprimulgus affinis</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**GRUIIFORMES: Rallidae**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Red-legged Crane</td>
<td><em>Rallina fasciata</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**CHARADRIIFORMES: Burhinidae**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beach Thick-knee</td>
<td><em>Esacus magnirostris</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**CHARADRIIFORMES: Charadriidae**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pacific Golden Plover</td>
<td><em>Pluvialis fulva</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Siberian Plover (Lesser Sandplover)</td>
<td><em>Anarhynchus mongolus</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oriental Plover</td>
<td><em>Anarhynchus veredus</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**CHARADRIIFORMES: Scolopacidae**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Red-necked Phalarope</td>
<td><em>Phalaropus lobatus</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Terek Sandpiper</td>
<td><em>Xenus cinereus</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Common Sandpiper</td>
<td><em>Actitis hypoleucus</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grey-tailed Tattler</td>
<td><em>Tringa brevipes</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Common Greenshank</td>
<td><em>Tringa nebularia</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ruddy Turnstone</td>
<td><em>Arenaria interpres</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sanderling</td>
<td><em>Calidris alba</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black-tailed Godwit</td>
<td><em>Limosa limosa melanuroides</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Little Curlew</td>
<td><em>Numenius minutus</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eurasian Whimbrel</td>
<td><em>Numenius phaeopus</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eurasian Curlew</td>
<td><em>Numenius arquata orientalis</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**CHARADRIIFORMES: Glareolidae**
Australian Pratincole | Stiltia isabella

**CHARADRIIFORMES: Laridae**
- Brown Noddy | Anous stolidus
- Bridled Tern | Onychoprion anaethetus anaethetus
- Aleutian Tern | Onychoprion aleuticus
- Little Tern | Sternula albifrons sinensis
- White-winged Tern | Childonias leucopterus
- Whiskered Tern | Childonias hybrida
- Black-naped Tern | Sterna sumatrana
- Common Tern | Sterna hirundo longipennis
- Great Crested Tern | Thalasseus bergii

**CHARADRIIFORMES: Stercorariidae**
- Pomarine Skua | Stercorarius pomarinus
- Arctic Skua | Stercorarius parasiticus
- Long-tailed Skua | Stercorarius longicaudus

**PHAETHONTIFORMES: Phaethontidae**
- White-tailed Tropicbird | Phaethon lepturus

**PROCELLARIIFORMES: Procellariidae**
- Bulwer’s Petrel | Bulweria bulwerii
- Streaked Shearwater | Calonectris leucomelas
- Tropical Shearwater | Puffinus bailloni dichrous

**PROCELLARIIFORMES: Oceanitidae**
- Wilson’s Storm-Petrel | Oceanites oceanicus

**PROCELLARIIFORMES: Hydrobatidae**
- Swinhoe’s Storm-Petrel | Hydrobytes monorhis

**SULIFORMES: Sulidae**
- Brown Booby | Sula leucogaster plotus
- Red-footed Booby | Sula sula rubripes

**SULIFORMES: Fregatidae**
- Great Frigatebird | Fregata minor
- Lesser Frigatebird | Fregata ariel

**SULIFORMES: Phalacrocoracidae**
- Little Black Cormorant | Phalacrocorax sulcirostris
- Little Pied Cormorant | Phalacrocorax melanoleucos

**PELECANIFORMES: Threskiornithidae**
- Royal Spoonbill | Platalea regia

**PELECANIFORMES: Ardeidae**
- Cinnamon Bittern | Ixobrychus cinnamomeus
- Grey Heron | Ardea cinerea jouyi
- Great-billed Heron | Ardea sumatrana
- Eastern Great Egret | Ardea [albus] modestus
- Intermediate Egret | Ardea intermedia
- Little Egret | Egretta garzetta nigripes
- Pacific Reef Egret | Egretta sacra sacra
- Javan Pond-Heron | Ardeola speciosa
- Striated Heron | Butorides striata javanicus

**PELECANIFORMES: Pelecanidae**
- Australian Pelican | Pelecanus conspicillatus

**ACCIPITRIFORMES: Pandionidae**
- Osprey | Pandion haliaetus cristatus

**ACCIPITRIFORMES: Accipitridae**
- Pacific Baza | Aviceda subcristata timorlaoensis
- Short-toed Eagle | Circaetus gallicus gallicus
Bonelli's Eagle: *Aquila fasciata renschi*
Flores Hawk Eagle: *Niseatius floris*
White-bellied Fish Eagle: *Haliaeetus leucogaster*
Brahminy Kite: *Haliastur indus intermedium*
Varied Goshawk: *Tachyspiza hiogaster polionota*
Brown Goshawk: *Tachyspiza fasciatus stresemannii*
*Tachyspiza fasciatus wallacci*

**STRIGIFORMES: Tytonidae**
Australasian Masked Owl: *Tyto novaehollandiae sororcula*
Barn Owl: *Tyto alba delicatula*

**STRIGIFORMES: Strigidae**
Wetar Scops Owl: *Otus [magicus] tempestatis*
Tanimbar Boobook: *Ninox [squamipila] forbesi*
Southern Boobook: *Ninox novaeseelandiae cinnamomina*
Alor Boobook: *Ninox [novaeseelandiae] plesseni*

**CORACIIFORMES: Alcedinidae**
Common Kingfisher: *Alcedo atthis floresiana*
Azure Kingfisher: *Ceyx azureus ruficollaris*
Rufous-backed Kingfisher: *Ceyx rufidorsa rufidorsa*
Collared Kingfisher: *Todiramphus chloris chloris*
Cinnamon-banded Kingfisher: *Todiramphus australasia australasia*
Sacred Kingfisher: *Todiramphus sanctus sanctus*

**CORACIIFORMES: Meropidae**
Rainbow Bee-eater: *Merops ornatus*

**CORACIIFORMES: Coraciidae**
Oriental Dollarbird: *Eurystomus orientalis orientalis*

**PICIFORMES: Picidae**
Sunda Woodpecker: *Phoenicurus fuliginosus*

**FALCONIFORMES: Falconidae**
Indonesian (Spotted) Kestrel: *Falco moluccensis microbalia*
Australian Hobby: *Falco longipennis hanieli*
Peregrine Falcon: *Falco peregrinus ernesti*

**PSITTACIFORMES: Cacatuidae**
Tanimbar Cockatoo: *Cacatua goffiniana*
Yellow-crested Cockatoo: *Cacatua sulphurea occidentalis*

**PSITTACIFORMES: Psittacidae**
Blue-streaked Lory: *Eos reticulata*
Olive-headed Lorikeet: *Trichoglossus euteles*
Iris Lorikeet: *Psitteuteles iris wetterensis*
Red-cheeked Parrot: *Geoffroyus geoffroyi geoffroyi*
Great-billed Parrot: *Tanygnathus megalorynchos subaffinis*
Eclectus Parrot: *Eclectus roratus riedeli*
Olive-shouldered Parrot: *Aprosmictus joniquillaceus wetterensis*

**PASSERIFORMES: Pittidae**
Elegant Pitta: *Pitta elegans concinna*
Pitta elegans virginalis
Pitta elegans vigorsii

**PASSERIFORMES: Meliphagidae**
Indonesian Honeyeater: *Lichmera limbata*
Banda Honeyeater: *Lichmera squamata*
Black-necklaced Honeyeater: *Lichmera notabilis*
Wetar Myzomela: *Myzomela kuehni*
Alor Myzomela: *Myzomela sp nov.*
Sulawesi Myzomela | Myzomela chloroptera juga
Banda Myzomela | Myzomela boiei annabellae
Kisar Friarbird | Philemon kisserensis
Tanimbar Friarbird | Philemon [moluccensis] plumigenis
Helmeted Friarbird | Philemon buceroides neglectus
Philemon buceroides buceroides

**PASSERIFORMES: Pardalotidae**
Golden-bellied Gerygone | Gerygone sulphurea
Timor Gerygone | Gerygone inornata
Banda Sea Gerygone | Gerygone dorsalis dorsalis
Gerygone dorsalis kuehni
Gerygone dorsalis fulvescens
Gerygone dorsalis senex

**PASSERIFORMES: Oriolidae**
Wetar Oriole | Oriolus [melanotis] finschi
Tanimbar Oriole | Oriolus [bouroensis] decipiens
Black-naped Oriole | Oriolus chinensis boneratensis
Oriolus chinensis broderipii
Wetar Figbird | Sphecotheres hypoleucus

**PASSERIFORMES: Pachycephalidae**
Moluccan (Golden) Whistler | Pachycephala macrorhyncha fuscoflava
Tenggara (Golden) Whistler | Pachycephala calliope arthuri
Pachycephala calliope everetti
Pachycephala calliope fulvotincta
Babar (Golden) Whistler | Pachycephala [pectoralis] sharpei
Fawn-breasted Whistler | Pachycephala orpheus orpheus
Wallacean Whistler | Pachycephala arctitorquis kebirensis
Pachycephala arctitorquis arctitorquis

**PASSERIFORMES: Artamidae**
White-breasted Woodswallow | Artamus leucorynchus albiventer
Artamus leucorynchus musschenbroeki

**PASSERIFORMES: Campephagidae**
Wallacean Cuckoo-shrike | Coracina personata personata
Alor Cuckoo-shrike | Coracina personata unimodus
Lesueur’s (White-shouldered) Triller | Lalage sueuri
Tanimbar Triller | Lalage [atrovirens] moesta

**PASSERIFORMES: Rhipiduridae**
Charming (Long-tailed) Fantail | Rhipidura opistherythra
Supertramp (Arafura) Fantail | Rhipidura semicollaris mimosae
Rhipidura fuscorufa
Rhipidura rufiventris pallidiceps
Banda Sea (Northern) Fantail | Rhipidura [rufiventris] hoedti

**PASSERIFORMES: Dicruridae**
(Wallacean) Flores Spangled Drongo | Dicrurus [densus] bimaensis
Timor Spangled Drongo | Dicrurus [densus] densus
Tanimbar Spangled Drongo | Dicrurus [densus] kuehni

**PASSERIFORMES: Monarchidae**
Island Monarch | Monarcha cinerascens cinerascens
Tanimbar (Loetoe) Monarch | Carteronias castus
Banda Sea (Black-bibbed) Monarch | Symposiachrus mundus
Tanahjampea Monarch | Symposiachrus everetti
Spectacled Monarch | Symposiachrus trivirgatus trivirgatus
Broad-billed Monarch | Myiagra ruficollis ruficollis
Myiagra ruficollis fulviventris
Shining Monarch
Black-naped Monarch
Tenggara Paradise-flycatcher

PASSERIFORMES: Laniidae
Long-tailed Shrike

PASSERIFORMES: Corvidae
Southern Jungle Crow
Torresian Crow

PASSERIFORMES: Paridae
Cinereous Tit

PASSERIFORMES: Petroicidae
Tanimbar Flyrobin

PASSERIFORMES: Hirundinidae
Barn Swallow
Pacific Swallow
Daurian (Striped) Swallow
Tree Martin

PASSERIFORMES: Zosteropidae
Lemon-bellied White-eye
Ashy-bellied White-eye

PASSERIFORMES: Phylloscopidae
Timor Leaf Warbler

PASSERIFORMES: Cettiidae
Timor Stubtail
Tanimbar Bush Warbler
Sunda Bush Warbler

PASSERIFORMES: Locustellidae
Tawny Grassbird
Sunda Grasshopper Warbler

PASSERIFORMES: Cisticolidae
Zitting Cisticola
Golden-headed Cisticola

PASSERIFORMES: Sturnidae
Metallic Starling
Tanimbar Starling
Short-tailed Starling
Javan Myna

PASSERIFORMES: Turdidae
Slaty-backed Thrush
Orange-banded Thrush
Fawn-breasted Thrush

PASSERIFORMES: Muscicapidae
Tanahjampea Blue-Flycatcher
Timor Warbling-Flycatcher
Pied Bushchat

Lesser Shortwing
Tanimbar Flycatcher
Damar Flycatcher
Little Pied Flycatcher  
*Ficedula westermanni*

**PASSERIFORMES: Dicaeidae**
- **Black-fronted Flowerpecker**  
  *Dicaeum igniferum*
- **Red-chested Flowerpecker**  
  *Dicaeum maugei maugei*
- **Salvadori’s Flowerpecker**  
  *Dicaeum maugei salvadorii*
- **Red-chested Flowerpecker**  
  *Dicaeum maugei splendidum*
- **Dicaeum keiense fulgidum**

**PASSERIFORMES: Nectariniidae**
- **Sahul (Olive-backed) Sunbird**  
  *Cinnyris clementiae teysmanni*
- **Flame-breasted Sunbird**  
  *Cinnyris clementiae clementiae*
- **Cinnyris solaris solaris**
- **Cinnyris solaris exquisita**

**PASSERIFORMES: Passeridae**
- **Eurasian Tree Sparrow**  
  *Passer montanus*
- **Sunda Zebra Finch**  
  *Taeniopygia guttata guttata*
- **Tricolor Parrotfinch**  
  *Erythura tricolor*
- **Black-faced Munia**  
  *Lonchura molucca*
- **Scaly-breasted Munia**  
  *Lonchura punctulata nisoria*
- **Five-coloured Munia**  
  *Lonchura punctulata blasii*
- **Pale-headed Munia**  
  *Lonchura pallida*

**PASSERIFORMES: Estrildidae**
- **Sahul (Olive-backed) Sunbird**  
  *Cinnyris clementiae teysmanni*
- **Flame-breasted Sunbird**  
  *Cinnyris clementiae clementiae*
- **Cinnyris solaris solaris**
- **Cinnyris solaris exquisita**

**PASSERIFORMES: Motacillidae**
- **Eastern Yellow Wagtail**  
  *Motacilla tschutschensis tschutschensis*
- **Grey Wagtail**  
  *Motacilla tschutschensis taivana*
- **Paddyfield Pipit**  
  *Anthus rufulus medius*

**MAMMALS**
- **Common Spotted Cuscus**  
  *Spilocuscus maculatus*
- **Black-bearded Flying Fox**  
  *Pteropus melanopogon*
- **Sperm Whale**  
  *Physeter macrocephalus*
- **False Killer Whale**  
  *Pseudorca crassidens*
- **Dwarf Spinner Dolphin**  
  *Stenella longirostris roseiventris*
- **Pantropical Spotted Dolphin**  
  *Stenella attenuata*
- **Indo-pacific Bottlenose Dolphin**  
  *Tursiops aduncus*

230 species recorded including two heard only